

**BOARD MEETING OF THE GILPIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**January 17, 2017**

President Craig Holmes called the meeting of the Gilpin County Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Armstrong – present; Boulter – present; Holmes – present; Ramsey – absent; Taylor – present.

Steve Boulter read the mission statement.

**Boulter (m); Taylor (s): APPROVE the agenda, as amended.**

**Discussion.** Superintendent MacKenzie mentioned that Art Teacher Curt Halsted may not be in attendance for tonight’s meeting; and therefore, the Artist Recognition of the Month would be postponed until February.

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye; Taylor – aye*

**CARRIED**

During *Congratulations and Celebrations*, Superintendent MacKenzie thanked the Gilpin County Art Association for donating \$1000 to the Gilpin County School District’s Art department. MacKenzie added that the District appreciates the donations the Gilpin County Art Association have made over the years.

Superintendent MacKenzie introduced and welcomed the Australian Exchange Teacher, David Price, who is filling in for Secondary English Teacher Sam Wardell as part of the International Educator Exchange program. Price spoke to the board about his experience since arriving at Gilpin County School District. Price remarked that the school days operate at a faster pace than what he is used to in Australia. Price said that he enjoys the freedom of what can be taught here in states as opposed to the British model curriculum that is taught at his private school in Australia. Price also commented that the students seem mature and courteous compared to his Australian students, who can be a bit more frank. Price thanked the board for this opportunity and added that this has been an exciting adventure and cultural experience for him and his family. The board thanked Price for coming. Price was photographed by Patty Unruh with the Register Weekly-Call.

During *Secondary Principal/Teacher/Student Presentation*, Secondary Principal Alexis Donaldson and Social Studies Teacher Dusty Newberg were in attendance to introduce two ninth grade students, Aidan Freeman and Ashley Parkhurst, for the Secondary Student presentation.

The students presented the class system overview for their World History class. Freeman stated that the curriculum provides many resources for students to use for their assignments, as well as studying tools for tests. Freeman noted that the class is like ‘no other’ because it allows for students to find the information on their own. Freeman added that the class is efficient, fun, and challenging. Freeman highlighted the website, TCI, as a great resource that is easy to navigate and understand. Parkhurst mentioned a few resources such as Quizlet and Questions in Google Classroom as other tools to help students understand the shared learning targets. Newburg explained that the curriculum is a new way to teach students and is constantly encouraging her students to provide feedback as they go along. Donaldson complimented the students on a great presentation. Board Member Armstrong thanked the students for coming. The students and Newburg were photographed by Patty Unruh with the Register Weekly-Call.

During *Public Participation*, there were several Elementary parents in attendance, Paula Fisher, Angela Manley, John Bushey, Sarah Swanson, and Jennifer Ferrante, to voice their concerns about the board possibly switching the District Calendar for 2017/2018 School Year from a ‘Monday through Friday’ to a ‘Tuesday through Friday’ school schedule. President Holmes prefaced public comments by stating that the Board had no desire to change the schedule but had received multiple inquires about ‘what if’ the the schedule changed to ‘Tuesday through Friday’. Holmes reported that seventy-nine percent of the responses from the survey indicated to leave the school schedule as Monday through Thursday; and therefore, the board intends to keep the school week the same.

During public comments, the overall consensus was that the current schedule of ‘Monday through Thursday’ works best for their families and that the change would be inconvenient and challenging since Mondays are busy days in the corporate world. John Bushey had additional concerns regarding the safety of the school’s sidewalks, especially along the roundabout. Bushey stated that there have been days where the sidewalks have not been shoveled with several inches of snow or very icy at times. Holmes responded that the District will address his concerns regarding the walkways.

Holmes thanked the parents for coming and giving their feedback.

**Armstrong (m); Taylor (s): APPROVE the minutes of the December 13, 2016 Board Meeting, as presented.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – abstain; Holmes – aye; Taylor – aye*

**CARRIED**

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): APPROVE the Consent Items, as presented.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye; Taylor – aye*

## CARRIED

During *Old Business*, Superintendent MacKenzie indicated that the contract for the South Parking Lot Project has been sent to Jim Noble, Inc. and that the District is waiting to hear back from Jim Noble, Inc. MacKenzie added that the project is scheduled to begin May 22. MacKenzie concluded that the RFP for the mountain excavation should be finalized soon.

**Armstrong (m); Boulter (s): APPROVE the School Closure on January 5, 2017 due to Inclement Weather.**

*Armstrong – aye; Boulter – aye; Holmes – aye; Taylor – aye*

## CARRIED

During *New Business*, Superintendent MacKenzie asked the board which member will attend the 2017 CASB Winter Legislative Conference at the Brown Palace in February. President Holmes stated that Secretary/Treasurer Taylor will be the only board member attending the conference.

Holmes suggested that the Policy Committee meeting be scheduled at a later time via email since Vice-President Ramsey was unable to attend tonight's board meeting.

Holmes stated that the Discussion for the District Calendar for 2017/2018 School Year was already discussed during *Public Participate*. MacKenzie replied that he received a request to schedule Spring Break to coincide with surrounding districts such as Boulder Valley, Clear Creek, and Jefferson County. Holmes thought that was a good idea. MacKenzie stated that there will be a First Reading for the District Calendar for 2017/2018 School Year at the next board meeting on February 7. MacKenzie indicated that there will be a Second Reading which will take place at the board meeting on February 21. MacKenzie then asked the Secretary to the Board, Gretchen Sechler, to prepare two possible calendar schedules with different start dates for the board meeting on February 7. Holmes requested hard copies for the meetings.

MacKenzie gave his Notice of Automatic Renewal of Superintendent's Employment Contract. Holmes replied, you are good.

During the *Principal's Report*, Secondary Principal Donaldson reported that all teachers participated in Professional Development on Monday, January 2 and Friday, January 6. On January 6, teachers attended choice workshops in the morning and varied instructional strategies in the afternoon. Donaldson stated that Secondary Teachers Heather Newman and Rachel VanHoose led a workshop using an Escape Room in instruction. Newman and VanHoose demonstrated how students had to use physics and precalculus clues to find their way out of the

Escape room which was located in the library. Donaldson commented that the escape room was really cool.

Donaldson noted that Secondary was finished with STAR testing.

Donaldson congratulated Rachel Schmalz as valedictorian and Nick Ruez as salutatorian.

Donaldson said the winter sports season is underway and our athletes are doing a great job. Donaldson added that the Snowdodgers are back on the mountain with a big turnout of approximately forty students.

Elementary Principal Huntoon reported that the Lexia program is running smoothly with the assistance of Martha Scott as a program implementation consultant and Paraprofessional Kate Schlosser who is overseeing the program. Huntoon indicated there are forty-three students currently in the program.

Huntoon thanked Elementary Secretary Joni Schmidt for coordinating the Thanksgiving and Holiday Baskets program. Huntoon shared that twelve Gilpin families received a Thanksgiving basket that included a turkey and King Soopers' gift card and a Holiday basket that included a dinner meal, King Soopers' gift card, and Christmas stockings for their children. Huntoon thanked the Isle of Capri, St. James Church, and our teachers for donating the items for the baskets.

Huntoon informed the board that six fifth grade students will participate in the Super School News on April 12. The show will air on Rocky Mountain PBS.

During the *Superintendent's Report*, Superintendent MacKenzie reported on the Elementary School Classroom Observations on January 11 and 12 and that the Teachers Teaching Teachers program has been really effective for Professional Learning and improving instruction.

MacKenzie reported that the ceiling has been repaired in the boys' locker room in the Old Gym.

MacKenzie informed the board that the Crisis Response Team conducted a Shelter in Place Drill on January 11.

MacKenzie briefed the board regarding the Business Manager's report. MacKenzie stated that unless there are changes made to the Colorado constitution we will receive less and less funding from the state going forward.

MacKenzie reported that the District has already started transitioning to new vehicles with the big bus in service for about a month. MacKenzie added that the small vehicle will be in service soon.

MacKenzie stated that the District plans to upgrade the Intercom system with new parts needed for the Zone Controls.

During the *Next Agenda*, Superintendent MacKenzie listed Policies, First Reading for the District Calendar for 2017/2018, and the Artist Recognitions for the next meeting.

Holmes adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

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Craig Holmes, President

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Kersten Armstrong, Board Member at Large